

NATURE WORKING GROUP



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia



Post-meeting Papers

Nature Working Group Meeting #3 2024

Thursday 12 September 2024 | 12pm to 1pm AEST/ 2pm to 3pm NZST

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Agenda

Item	Action required
1. Welcome (5 min) Co-Chairs – Guy Williams (Pollination) & Claire Molinari (CareSuper) <ul style="list-style-type: none">OpeningAcknowledgement of CountryMinutes from last meetingPrinciples of Participation	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Jessa Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)
2. Special Presentation and Q&A (20 min) Topic: Unpacking Nature Positive - Mirtha Kastrapeli (Managing Director and Global Head of Natural Capital ISS ESG) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mirtha Kastrapeli is Managing Director and Global Head of Natural Capital at ISS ESG. She also leads the Consumer Sector Corporate Ratings Research. Mirtha is an accomplished sustainable investment leader with a track record in developing cutting-edge research in the ESG investment space. She is also a Senior Fellow at Columbia University's Center on Sustainable Investment, CCSI.Mirtha opened with recapping on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, signed by 190 countries with the goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.	To access the special presentation, please log in to your Member Portal and select; 1. “LEARN” (top bar), 2. “Member Only Resources” (bottom of drop-down menu), 3. “Working Groups” (Yellow Tile), 4. “Nature Working

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We need to be talking about nature if we want to address some of the climate targets. The latest IPCC report talks about different ways you can scale climate action including the feasibility of climate responses and adaptation, and potential of mitigation options in the near-term. ○ There is a definition by the World Economic Forum of nature positive which is, “a nature positive approach enhances the resilience of our planet and societies”. There is an argument that we can not be fully nature positive but instead contributing to a nature positive future. ○ A case study was then discussed with a focus on regenerative agriculture. The impact drivers of nature loss where land-use change is the biggest driver for nature loss. ○ Moving from the extractive agriculture approach towards a more resilient approach. ○ ISS ESG came up with the Regenerative Agriculture definition that is “a holistic, systems-thinking approach to farming and food production that seeks to improve and maintain the health and productivity of soil, water and biodiversity ecosystems, and communities while helping mitigate and adapt to climate change.” ○ ISS ESG then developed 12 principles of Regenerative Agriculture which include soil health, animal welfare, water and then also farmers and ranchers. The social piece was critical to have an effective transformation of the food systems. This could be a way for an investor to look at companies in their portfolios against regenerative agriculture practices in their portfolios and incorporate them into the public markets. 	<p>Group” (Scroll Down, Blue Box), 5. “2024 Meetings And Special Presentations” (Scroll Down, Underneath Working “Group Details”) and then underneath the title: “3 – Thursday 12 September 2024”, you will find the recording of the special presentation, the Pre-meeting papers, and the Post meeting papers.</p> <p>If you require any assistance please contact, Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)</p>
<p>3. Industry Update (15 min) Stock Watch Report - Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently we are seeing the release of new reporting in the National Pollution Innovatory. This reporting has found that despite just over a 5% reduction in outputs between 2022 and 2023, AGL energy saw their mercury deposits for their Bayswater power station almost double as well as almost a third more PM2.5 particles over the same period. • Origin Energy's Eraring power station near lake Macquarie is demonstrating an even higher level of emissions and whilst Origin Energy had previously announced that this plant was set to be closed by August 2025, media reports suggest it is possible that the Australian government will subsidize the plant to avoid risks of black outs during high demand periods beyond August 2025. • For more information, please see attached slides. <p>Aotearoa New Zealand Update - Gael Ogilvie (Director Tread Lightly Advisory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Business Network ran a Nature and Business Symposium that was well attended. This covered activity on the corporate socially responsible side through to companies that are looking at TNFD as well as impacts and resilience of nature. • Regarding TNFD, the Aotearoa Circle are holding their second year of TNFD boot camps with a range of corporates 	<p>For more information regarding the Stock Watch Report, please contact, Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)</p> <p>For more information regarding the Aotearoa Update,</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change and Business Conference took place on the 9th and 10th September. Has been running for 16 years now and this year there were two well attended sessions on nature. <p>RIAA's Policy and Advocacy Work - Nayanisha Samarakoon (Head of Policy and Advocacy RIAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government is working on the legislative rules that will support the operation of the Nature Repair Market. These rules will set out further requirements or add details to those in the Act. The Government opened consultations which are closing on the 30 September. There will be further consultations in the coming months. We are anticipating an Australian federal election by May. So will be focusing on advocacy around this. In Aotearoa New Zealand we have been looking into the Second emission reduction plan and endorsing the second emission reduction plan. We are advocating for a coordinated approach to facilitate more nature investment, early adoption of TNFD and the government matching the targets by matching the resources. For nature we talk a lot about in our conversation on the Future Made in Australia policy package. While it is focused on climate, we are trying to ensure nature is included from the beginning. 	<p>please contact, Gael Ogilvie (Tread Lightly)</p> <p>For more information on RIAA's Policy Work, please contact: policy@responsibleinvestment.org</p>
<p>4. Subgroup Updates (5 min)</p> <p>Nature Investor Toolkit - Claire Molinari (Care Super)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nature Investor Toolkit has now been finalised. With many thanks to almost 20 members as part of the toolkit team this is set to be launched on the 19 September in a panel Guy will provide an overview of later. The toolkit will be shared with NWG members on the morning of the 19 September. We will then be holding a follow up webinar to launch the toolkit on the 16 October from 12-1. 	<p>For more information regarding the Nature Toolkit Subgroup, please contact, Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)</p>
<p>5. General Updates (10 min)</p> <p>Workplan for Nature Working Group - Jess Rowe (Manager of Working Groups RIAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to those who have completed the survey, we are working on drafting an update to the workplan that we will then share in an out of cycle working group meeting for discussion. <p>Nature Positive Summit - Guy Williams (Co-Chair RIAA's Nature Working Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Nature Positive Summit, to be hosted by the Australian Government in October 2024. It is invitation only, capped at 800 attendees globally. 	<p>For more information regarding the workplan or the Nature Positive Summit or TNFD Adopters campaign, please contact, Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite members to share any updates on any plans they have for the Nature Positive Summit and the lead up to it. • To coincide with the Global Nature Positive Summit 2024 hosted by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in Sydney, the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA), along with Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Australian Sustainable Finance Institute and the Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia invite Australian-based companies and financial institutions become TNFD Adopters. 	
<p>6. Closing remarks</p> <p>Next Meeting: November 28 2024 – register here</p> <p>RIAA Conference Aotearoa NZ: Thursday, September 19 2024</p>	For noting

Action Register

Ref.	Action	Delegation	Status
New			
26/24	Next Meeting – Thursday, 28 November (12pm to 1:00pm AEDT/2pm to 3:00pm NZDT) – register here	All	Pending
25/24	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)	All	Pending
24/24	For more information regarding the workplan or the Nature Positive Summit or TNFD Adopters campaign, please contact, Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)	All	Pending
23/24	For more information regarding the Nature Toolkit Subgroup, please contact, Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)	All	Pending
22/24	For more information on RIAA's Policy Work, please contact: policy@responsibleinvestment.org	All	Pending
21/24	For more information regarding the Aotearoa Update, please contact, Gael Ogilvie (Tread Lightly)	All	Pending
20/24	For more information regarding the Stock Watch Report, please contact, Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)	All	Pending
19/24	To access the special presentation, please log in to your Member Portal and select; 1. "LEARN" (top bar), 2. "Member Only Resources" (bottom of drop-down menu), 3. "Working Groups" (Yellow Tile), 4. "Nature Working Group" (Scroll Down, Blue Box), 5. "2024 Meetings And Special Presentations" (Scroll Down, Underneath Working "Group Details") and then underneath the title: "3 – Thursday 12 September 2024" , you will find the recording of the special presentation, the Pre-meeting papers, and the Post meeting papers.	All	Pending

	If you require any assistance please contact, Jess Rowe (Working Groups Manager, RIAA)		
Previous			
18/24	Next Meeting – Thursday, 12th September (12pm to 1:00pm AEST/2pm to 3:00pm NZST) – Register Here	All	Complete
17/24	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Noa Godsell (RIAA)	All	Complete
16/24	For more information on RIAA's Policy Work, please contact: policy@responsibleinvestment.org	All	Ongoing
15/24	If you have any inputs on the Nature Working Group's work plan for 2024, Please contact Jess Rowe (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
14/24	For more information regarding the Nature Toolkit Subgroup, please contact, Jess Rowe (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
13/24	For more information regarding "Risky Business 2.0", please contact, Audrey van Herwaarden (ACF)	All	Ongoing
12/24	For more information regarding the Aotearoa Update, please contact, Greg Munford (NZ Super)	All	Ongoing
11/24	For more information regarding the Stock Watch Report, please contact, Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)	All	Ongoing
10/24	To access the special presentation, please log in to your Member Portal and select; 1. "LEARN" (top bar), 2. "Member Only Resources" (bottom of drop-down menu), 3. "Working Groups" (Yellow Tile), 4. "Human Rights Working Group" (Scroll Down, Blue Box), 5. "2024 Meetings And Special Presentations" (Scroll Down, Underneath Working "Group Details") and then underneath the title: "NatSTART sharing session" , you will find the recording of the special presentation, the Pre-meeting papers, and the Post meeting papers. If you require any assistance please contact, Noa Godsell (RIAA)	All	Ongoing
9/24	Next Meeting - Thursday 13 June – Register HERE	All	Complete
8/24	Submit any amendments to the Minutes to Noa Godsell (RIAA)	All	Complete
7/24	Contact Jess Rowe (RIAA) , Claire Molinari (Co-Chair) or Guy Williams (Co-Chair) with any inputs on the working work plan for 2024	All	Ongoing
6/24	For more information on the 2024 Working Groups or the RIAA conference, please contact Noa Godsell (RIAA)	All	Complete
5/24	For more information on the Nature Investor toolkit, Please contact Claire Molinari (Co-Chair)	All	Complete

4/24	For more information on the First Sentier Nature and Biodiversity Toolkit, please contact Joanne Lee (First Sentier Investors)	All	Ongoing
3/24	For more information on the StockWatch report, please contact Jono Broome (Sustainalytics)	All	Complete
2/24	For more information on Nature Market Policy NZ and Biodiversity metrics, please contact Catrina Rowe (Silver Fern Farms)	All	Complete
1/24	For more information on Nature Market Policy NZ and Biodiversity metrics, please contact David van der Zouwe (NZ Department of Conservation)	All	Complete
1/24	For more information on regulatory changes in relation to labour rights and the workplace, please contact Samantha Ramsay (HRC)	All	Complete

Attendees (59)

	First Name	Last Name	Company
1	Romy	Faulkner	ACSI
2	Brent	Rechter	ACSI
3	Madeline	Combe	Altiozem
4	Alex	Safran	Alvarium/ Pathfinder
5	Dragana	Timotijevic	AMP - Platforms
6	Nancy	Wang	ANZ
7	Meri	Vukasin	Ausbil investment management
8	Rae	Addison	Australiansuper
9	William	Sandover	Baza Capital
10	Greg	Liddell	Betashares
11	Philip	Bateman	Bravo Charlie
12	Nirav	Shah	BT Funds Management NZ Ltd
13	Claire	Molinari	CareSuper
14	Nathan	Crombie	Cbus (United Super)
15	Melanie	Madders	CEFC
16	Gabriel	Le	Challenger Limited
17	Karen	McWilliams	Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
18	Joanne	Lee	First Sentier Investors
19	Marie	Cardaci	Frontier Advisors Pty Ltd
20	Elyse	Weatherby	Future Group
21	Julia	Leske	ISS ESG
22	Mirtha	Kastropeli	ISS ESG / ISS Governance
23	Julia	Green	Johnson Winter Slattery
24	Carolyn	Leeshaa	KPMG Australia
25	Christine	Laban	KPMG New Zealand
26	Els	Termaat	Loftus Peak Pty Limited
27	Jacqueline	Stokes	Magellan Asset Management
28	Tim	King	Melior Investment Management

29	Michelle	Leung	Mercer
30	Jocelyn	Davison	Metrics Credit Partners
31	Bella	Sigley	Milford Asset Management
32	John	Moutsopoulos	Mills Oakley
33	Barry	Coates	Mindful Money
34	Jono	Broome	Morningstar Sustainalytics
35	Amy	Sparks	Morrisonglobal
36	Rayne	Van den Berg	NatCapPlus
37	Kokila	Uma	Northcape Capital
38	Kristina	Hermanson	Nuveen Natural Capital LLC
39	Bridgette	McDonald	Pamoda Consult
40	Peter	Brooke	Platypus Asset Management
41	Guy	Williams	Pollination
42	Olivia	Back	Pollination
43	Abi	Curtis	PRI
44	Claire	Hahnhaussen	Purpose Capital
45	Sarah	Nguyen	QBE
46	Stacey	Sellwood	Rest
47	Briony	Doyle Galovic	RIAA
48	Jess	Rowe	RIAA
49	Eleanor	Fels	RIAA
50	Nayanisha	Samarakoon	RIAA
51	William	Potter	RSM
52	Gautier	Desme	S&P Global
53	Dianna	Enlund	S&P Global
54	Pai	Liu	Schroder Investment Management Australia Limited
55	Gael	Ogilvie	Tread Lightly
56	Jessica	Blake	Treasury
57	Rachel	Alembakis	U Ethical Investors
58	Michael	Chou	UFS
59	Erin	Kuo	Yarra Capital Management

Monitoring Nature Related Controversies

September 2024

Plastics Controversies

Coles Group Ltd. and Woolworths Group Ltd.

Food Retail, Australia

Cat 1

APCO warns supermarkets to remove plastic recycling symbols

[Yahoo! News Australia - 23 Jul 2024](#)

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) sent an email to Coles and Woolworths warning them that the packaging of some of their products could breach the Australian Consumer Law. APCO told the supermarkets to remove from marketing materials claims that soft plastics were recyclable. The APCO warned against the continued advertising of the REDcycle scheme, which was stockpiling plastic at 44 sites rather than recycling it. APCO also suggested the removal of the Return to Store logo as most stores did not accept soft plastic. The email urged the companies to remove outdated plastic claims from their websites too.

NSW EPA orders company to dispose of soft plastic

[PKN Packaging News - 6 Feb 2023](#)

The NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered Coles and Woolworths to dispose of the 5200 tonnes of soft plastic collected by REDcycle that was stored in warehouses around New South Wales, Australia. The removal and disposal of the soft plastic was expected to cost the companies around AUD 3.5 million (USD 2.4 million), despite already paying REDcycle to take the post-consumer waste away for recycling in the scheme. Coles and Woolworths have six days to contest NSW EPA's notices. Woolworths said the notice was a surprise, adding it would seek clarity from NSW's EPA. Coles said the company was disappointed to learn of the notice but would respond within the timeframe.

Other Recent Nature Related Controversies

Boss Energy Ltd.

Diversified Metals Mining, Australia

Cat 1

Storm event causes spill at Honeymoon uranium mine in South Australia

[WISE Uranium Project - 17 Jul 2024](#)

Media outlets reported that a storm event that occurred on 7 January 2024 caused a gypsum slurry spill of 48 cubic meters at Boss Energy Ltd.'s Honeymoon in situ leach uranium mine in South Australia. According to media sources, the company detected the spill when it was restarting operations after the storm and immediately shut down the facility. The spill consisted of 38 cubic meters of gypsum slurry containing radioactive materials and 10 cubic meters of raw water. The spill extent was approximately 1,209 square meters, of which 39 square meters entered an undisturbed area.

Champion Iron Ltd.

Steel, Australia

Cat 1

Environmental groups criticize Bloom Lake iron project in Quebec

[Actual News Magazine - 10 Jul 2024](#)

Environmental groups criticized Quebec Iron Ore's Blue Lake iron project due to the waterway destruction to meet the needs of the mining industry in Quebec, Canada. the federal government of Canada approved the destruction of 37 waterways, including lakes, to allow the project to dump hundreds of millions of tonnes of mining waste in the next few years. The project was approved by the Legault government in 2022, but environmental groups opposed it, claiming that the project would negatively impact the ecosystems. The project would also redefine the watercourses, which were habitats for various fish species, to designate them as "tailings disposal areas for the Bloom Lake Mine Expansion Project". Moreover, the environmental groups raise concerns over possible impact on the woodland caribou which would frequent the area where the Bloom Lake iron ore mine is located.

Nature Working Group

Meeting #3 | Thursday 12 September

With special thanks to our Principal Partners



Responsible Investment
Association Australasia



Co-Chairs of RIAA's Nature Working Group



Guy Williams, Director at Pollination Capital Partners Pty Limited



Claire Molinari, Head of ESG at CareSuper

Principles of Participation

- Confidentiality - Chatham House Rule
- No self-promotion
- Declaration of conflicts of interest
- Representation
- Collaboration between members
- Positive change in practice/policy
- Not to engage in or discuss competitively sensitive information
- Apolitical

Special Presentation and Q&A: Unpacking Nature Positive



Mirtha Kastrapeli

Managing Director and Global Head of
Natural Capital at ISS ESG

Industry Updates

- StockWatch Report

Jono Broome (Sustainalytics) TBC

- Aotearoa New Zealand

Gael Ogilvie (Tread Lightly Advisory)

- RIAA's Policy and Advocacy work

Nayanisha Samarakoon (RIAA)

RIAA NATURE WORKING GROUP

Nature Related Controversies Monitoring

September 2024

Jono Broome – Associate Director, Client Relations

Jono.broome@morningstar.com



Sustainalytics Controversies Monitoring

Plastics in Focus

1 Low 2 Moderate 3 Significant 4 High 5 Severe

Coles Group Ltd. and Woolworths Group Ltd.

Category 1 – Emissions, Effluents & Waste



23 Jul 2024

- » The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) has warned Coles and Woolworths that packaging of some of their products could breach the Australian Consumer Law.
- » APCO told the supermarkets to remove from marketing materials claims that soft plastics were recyclable.
- » The APCO warned against the continued advertising of the REDcycle scheme, which was stockpiling plastic. APCO also suggested the removal of the Return to Store logo as most stores did not accept soft plastic. See [Yahoo! News Australia Report](#).



6 Feb 2024

- » The NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered Coles and Woolworths to dispose of 5200 tonnes of soft plastic collected by REDcycle that was stored in 44 warehouses around NSW.
- » The removal and disposal of the soft plastic was expected to cost the companies around AUD 3.5 million (USD 2.4 million), despite already paying REDcycle to take the post-consumer waste away for recycling in the scheme. See [PKN Packaging News Report](#).

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Industry Updates

- StockWatch Report

Jono Broome (Sustainalytics) TBC

- Aotearoa New Zealand

Gael Ogilvie (Tread Lightly Advisory)

- RIAA's Policy and Advocacy work

Nayanisha Samarakoon (RIAA)

Subgroup Updates

- Nature Toolkit

Claire Molinari (Co-Chair)

General Updates

- Nature Working Group workplan
Jess Rowe (Manager of Working Groups)
- Nature Positive Summit
Guy Williams (Co-Chair)

Working Group Member Portal

All Working Group meeting minutes and recordings are uploaded to the RIAA Member Portal.

Access the portal using your Glue Up credentials here:



First Round of Working Group Meetings for 2024

Aotearoa Collaborative Working Group #3,
Tuesday 17 September 2pm – 3:30pm NZST/12pm to 1:30pm AEST

First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group #4 ,
Thursday 24 October - 12pm – 1.30pm AEDT / 2pm – 3.30pm NZDT

Human Rights Working Group #4,
Thursday 14 November - 12pm – 1.30pm AEDT / 2pm – 3.30pm NZDT

Nature Working Group #4,
Thursday 28 November - 12pm – 1.30pm AEDT / 2pm – 3.30pm NZDT



View full list of [RIAA's events here](#).
Responsible Investment
Association Australasia

RIAA CONFERENCE AOTEAROA NZ 2024

Mā te mahi, ka ora. Through work, we thrive.

19 September | Auckland

Register
Now



riaa

MAKING SENSE OF NATURE: INSIGHTS FROM RIAA'S NATURE WORKING GROUP

Join an expert panel as we break down all the talk about 'nature positive', 'nature-related' and 'biodiversity risks and opportunities' in finance. This session will delve into nature-related risks and opportunities, the race towards 'net zero and nature positive' and how nature-related financial disclosures will help investors make better decisions and deliver long-term outcomes for people, planet and value. During this session, we will launch the RIAA Nature Investor Toolkit which focuses on understanding nature-related risks and opportunities and supporting investors to assess, engage, and take action.



Greg Munford
Senior Investment Strategist -
Sustainable Investment at NZ
Super Fund



Chitra Hepburn
Managing Director, Head of
APAC ESG and Climate, Head
of South & Southeast Asia at
MSCI



Guy Williams
Co-Chair of RIAA's Nature
Working Group and Executive
Director at Pollination Group



Dr Daniel Hikuroa
Associate Professor at
University of Auckland

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